

From: ? ?
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 4:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The original settlement between Microsoft and the government in November of 2001 was one in which Microsoft decided to give the government a certain amount of money, agreeing to change some of the ways the company runs. Microsoft was convicted by the government of breaking antitrust laws. Some states are still against Microsoft being a monopoly. There is a question of whether or not Microsoft really is a monopoly. The Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 prohibited what Microsoft is said to be doing now, which is being a monopoly.

I believe that Microsoft really is abusing its power. They have provided every Microsoft computer with Internet Explorer, which really is being too competitive. I believe that the government should not have allowed Microsoft to make a settlement because now we see how competitive Microsoft really is. In November of 2001, the government should have sued Netscape to the full extent. The settlement offered by the government was wrong I believe because it let Microsoft off the hook too easily.<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Netscape was right to have sued Microsoft otherwise this case with Microsoft would have never ended. Netscape was bought by AOL Time Warner, another company that has been in controversy with Microsoft, in 1999.

The Sherman Antitrust Act prohibited exactly what Microsoft is doing now. It said that there should be no more monopolies. The question is however: is Microsoft really a monopoly? Also, monopolies began at the start of Industrial America after the Civil War. John D. Rockefeller said that one of the disadvantages of monopolies is that "...the power conferred by combination may be abused..." (*John D. Rockefeller on Industrial Combinations*. From U.S. Industrial Commission. From *Preliminary Report on Trusts and Industrial Combinations*. 1st Session of 56th Congress. (Dec. 30, 1899). This was a quote from a commission-like interview.]

From:

Irine Tyutereva

8th Grade—The Harker School in San Jose, CA

Get your FREE download of MSN Explorer at <http://explorer.msn.com>.